

On page 1, please delete lines 4-7 and replace therefor:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

A1  
This application is a divisional of pending United States Patent Application No. 09/372,668 filed August 11, 1999, which application claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/096,195 filed August 11, 1998, which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

In the Claims:

✓  
Please cancel claims 1-11 and 24-25.

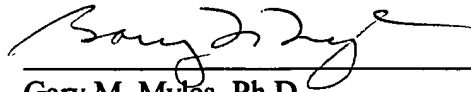
REMARKS

00420T 0426960  
With entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 20-23 are under consideration in the pending application. Claims 1-11 and 24-25 are cancelled and claims 12-19 and 26-34 are withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the Restriction Requirement mailed in U.S. Patent Application 09/372,668 on April 26, 2000. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to add the section entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" which section recites Applicants' claim to priority. This amendment does not add new matter to the specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Applicants submit that, with this amendment, each of the pending claims is in consideration for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice to that effect. Should the Examiner have any additional questions, he is respectfully encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

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